[4th September 1928

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am asking, Sir, whether the steps which the Government are now taking or propose to take or intended by them to bring about—I am asking a question of fact—prohibition within a period of ten or twenty years or within any definite time-limit ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" To carry out the time-limit which has been prescribed by the resolution passed by the Council, this policy is being pursued by the Government."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABAPATHI MUDALIYAR :—" The answer says that 'Government are considering schemes for propaganda work'. When Government are convinced of the evils of drink—and Government are the custodians of the safety of the masses—what is the necessity for further propaganda work ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" For the reason that a man may take interest in his neighbour and ask him to desist from the evil."

Minimising the evil of drink among Adi-Dravidas.

* 78 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that Adi-Dravida men and women spend at least half their wages on drink ; and

(*b*) the steps taken by Government to minimise the evil of drink among these people ?

A.—(*a*) The Government are not aware that the fact is as suggested.

(*b*) The Government have endeavoured to control the liquor trade and minimise the evils of drink by regulating the sale and consumption of liquor, by levying high taxation and by reducing the number of shops and by seeing that they are located in suitable sites. With regard to the depressed classes in particular, Government have directed that as far as possible shops should not be located in or within two furlongs from cheris.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :— " With reference to the answers to questions 76 and 77, may I know whether the Government propose to ask the Labour Department or the Public Health Department to do propaganda work with a view to discourage the drink habit among the Adi-Dravidas ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Every Department of Government, as far as they can find time to do it, has been asked about it."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether the officers of the Health Department have been encouraged to give advice ? This is not a Department like the Revenue Department ; it is under the hon. Minister."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I am afraid the hon. Member from Mangalore has not been following the proceedings of the Council. The prohibition against the officers of the Department doing it has been removed and they are now doing it."